

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated 31 August 2004. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure because it is more than one paragraph. The abstract is amended herewith to correct this informality.

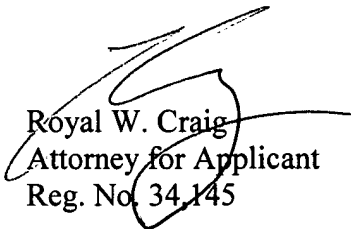
The Examiner objected to the specification for failure to provide a proper antecedent basis for the subject matter in claim 3, specifically, "integrally-molded of plastic". The specification, page 7, lines 5 and 6, is amended herewith as follows: "The cradle assemblies 40 may be formed from metal such as aluminum, *or integrally-molded of plastic or like material* (such as by extrusion molding).

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 6 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2 and 1, respectively, of Freeland (U.S. Patent No. 6,736,437) in view of Schaum (U.S. Patent No. 2,973,218). According to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the retaining slots of Schaum with the cradle assemblies of Freeland '437. Similarly, the Examiner also rejected claim 2-5 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 2 of Freeland '437 in view of Schaum (U.S. Patent No. 2,973,218) and Hart (U.S. Patent No. 4,521,045). According to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to form the handles for the support strap of Freeland '437 into loops by sewing the ends thereof onto itself as shown in Hart '045. A terminal disclaimer is attached hereto as Appendix A to traverse the double patenting rejections.

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In view of the above-described amendments and remarks, and the attached terminal disclaimer, all claims 1-6 are believed to avoid the rejections set forth in the Official Action. Thus, all of claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance, and a Notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If Examiner Kramer believes that any remaining issues can be resolved by further discussion, he is invited to call the undersigned at 410.385.2383 to help expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,


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